

Ser. No. 10/505,306

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A self-stabilising support for a structure comprising:
a first pair of legs,
means connected to the first pair of legs for supporting the structure;
a second pair of legs;
a bearing acting between the first pair of legs and the second pair of legs and allowing the second pair of legs to pivot with respect to the first pair of legs about an axis whereby the four legs of the first and second pair can, by suitably pivoting the second pair of legs with respect to the first pair, be firmly planted on an uneven surface to support the structure; and
damping means to fluid dampen and resist pivoting movement of the second pair of legs about the bearing,
wherein:
the damping means comprises a body of viscous fluid arranged to be displaced by a pivoting movement of the second pair of legs about the bearing;
the bearing comprises said body of viscous fluid;
the bearing comprises a shaft, a bushing and a chamber between the shaft and the bushing in which said body of viscous fluid is accommodated; and
the chamber is defined at least in part by a wall formed by the shaft and a wall formed by the bushing and wherein at least one of the said walls is not circular cylindrical in shape.
2. (Original) A support as claimed in claim 1 wherein, in use, the axis lies in a generally horizontal plane.
3. (Previously presented) A support as claimed in claim 1 wherein the axis extends generally perpendicularly to a notional line joining the ends of the legs of the first pair that engage the ground.
4. (Currently amended) A support as claimed in claim 1 ~~self stabilising support for a structure comprising:~~

Ser. No. 10/505,306

a first pair of legs;

means connected to the first pair of legs for supporting the structure;

a second pair of legs;

a bearing acting between the first pair of legs and the second pair of legs and allowing the second pair of legs to pivot with respect to the first pair of legs about an axis whereby the four legs of the first and second pair can, by suitably pivoting the second pair of legs with respect to the first pair, be firmly planted on an uneven surface to support the structure; and

damping means to dampen and resist pivoting movement of the second pair of legs about the bearing;

wherein the only substantial relative motion between the first and second pairs of legs is the said pivoting about the axis.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A support as claimed in claim 6 1, wherein the viscous fluid comprises a gel, a colloid, a dilatant composition or a thixotropic composition.

8. (Currently amended) A support as claimed in claim 6 1 wherein the viscous fluid is selected from the group consisting of silicon gels, silicone polymers and viscous colloids.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) An article of furniture supported on legs, the legs being formed by the support as defined in claim 1.

Ser. No. 10/505,306

13. (Previously presented) An article of furniture as claimed in claim 12, wherein a center of gravity of the article is spaced apart in a horizontal direction from the axis.
14. (Previously presented) An article of furniture as claimed in claim 12 being a chair having a seat and a back.
15. (Previously presented) An article of furniture supported on legs, the legs being formed by the support as defined in claim 10.
16. (Previously presented) An article of furniture as claimed in claim 15 being a chair having a seat and a back.
17. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
a first member for engaging an uneven support surface;
a second member for engaging the uneven support surface;
a structure supported above the uneven support surface;
a bearing acting between the first member and the second member and allowing the member to pivot with respect to the first member about an axis so that the first and second members can, by pivoting the second member with respect to the first member, be firmly planted on the uneven support surface to support the structure; and
a fluid damper coupled to resist pivoting movement of the second member about the axis and comprising a body of a dilatant composition arranged to be displaced by a pivoting movement of the second member about the bearing.
18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein:
the first member comprises a first pair of legs; and
the second member comprises a second pair of legs.
19. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein:

Ser. No. 10/505,306

there are no legs other than said first and second pairs of legs.

20. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a first means for engaging an uneven support surface;

a second means for engaging the uneven support surface;

a structure supported above the uneven support surface;

a bearing and fluid damping means acting between the first means and the second means for allowing the second means to pivot in a damped manner with respect to the first means, so that the first and second means can, by pivoting the second means with respect to the first means, be firmly planted on the uneven support surface to support the structure, the bearing and fluid damping means comprising a body of a dilatant composition arranged to be displaced by a pivoting movement of the second means about an axis of the bearing and fluid damping means.

21. (New) A self-stabilising support for a structure comprising:

a first pair of legs,

means connected to the first pair of legs for supporting the structure;

a second pair of legs;

a bearing acting between the first pair of legs and the second pair of legs and allowing the second pair of legs to pivot with respect to the first pair of legs about an axis whereby the four legs of the first and second pair can, by suitably pivoting the second pair of legs with respect to the first pair, be firmly planted on an uneven surface to support the structure; and

damping means to fluid dampen and resist pivoting movement of the second pair of legs about the bearing and comprising: a body of a dilatant composition arranged to be displaced by a pivoting movement of the second pair of legs about the bearing.

22. (New) A support as claimed in claim 21 wherein, in use, the axis lies in a generally horizontal plane.

23. (New) A support as claimed in claim 21 wherein the axis extends generally perpendicularly to a notional line joining the ends of the legs of the first pair that engage the

Ser. No. 10/505,306

ground.

24. (New) A support as claimed in claim 21 wherein the only substantial relative motion between the first and second pairs of legs is the said pivoting about the axis.

25. (New) A support as claimed in claim 21 wherein the damping means comprises a piston and cylinder acting directly or indirectly between the first and second pair of legs and acting to resist pivoting movement of the second pair of legs about the bearing.